



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Glacier National Park  
West Glacier, Montana 59936

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3615 MWR C

April 6, 1970

Honorable Michael J. Mansfield  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Mansfield:

In reply to your inquiry concerning air pollution in Glacier National Park, we are pleased to report the position we have assumed regarding the matter and our action to date.

As you know, Anaconda Aluminum Company, in Columbia Falls, is located approximately sixteen miles from West Glacier-Park Headquarters, but only six air miles from the west boundary of the park. Over the past several years, gaseous emissions from the plant have effected vegetation in and about Columbia Falls. The United States Forest Service has recently prepared a report of their findings as it effects the Flathead National Forest. While we have not as yet detected any visible damage to park vegetation, we do know, through a cooperative state monitoring system located at Park Headquarters that a surprising amount of fluorides drift into the park. In some cases, this exceeds 35 ppm which is the tolerable point before vegetative growth begins to die. We have met with representatives of Anaconda Aluminum on several occasions and have informed them of our concern. In turn, they have indicated an interest in a cooperative field monitoring system.

Whatever input the company might make to studies already underway will be welcome but, meanwhile, we are actively working with state officials and will continue to monitor the air quality of the park. We have also requested the assistance of the National Air Pollution Control Administration in determining possible effects of fluoride on sensitive park vegetation. That agency has responded and we are looking forward to their active participation this spring. At this stage, I feel we have been responsive

and now need additional qualitative data to be collected and analyzed by the National Air Pollution Control Administration before proceeding further.

We appreciate the opportunity to reply to your questions and are indebted to you for your personal concern and continuing interest in the environmental pollution problems in Glacier National Park.

Sincerely yours,

*William J. Briggie*  
William J. Briggie  
Superintendent

Enclosure:  
Original incoming